

SURGERY. By JOHN ALLAN WYETH, M.D., LL.D. (University of Alabama). With 864 illustrations. Marion Sims Wyeth & Company, Publishers. New York City, 1908.

The first edition of this standard work appeared in 1887 and immediately took high rank among similar treatises. It was especially noteworthy, because of the author's valuable contribution to the surgery of the arteries. Indeed, nine years before this his prize essay on the arteries had been presented to the American Medical Association, and attracted much attention, both in this country and abroad. Dr. Wyeth was the first surgeon to point out the advantage of ligating the external instead of the common carotid, and his treatise on the subject has long been known as a classic. It was noteworthy for painstaking research, both in the pages of current literature and for much original work on the cadaver. The same care in regard to detail which won for the author his first laurels, he has bestowed on his treatise on surgery. Three editions were published by the Appletons—the last in 1900; but now we are presented with an entirely new work from the presses of a new publishing house. Marion Sims Wyeth & Co. come before the public with this their first book, a treatise on Surgery, by John Allan Wyeth. That the new house may publish many good books, and flourish exceedingly, will be the heartfelt wish of those of us who were fortunate enough to have known the grandfather, Marion Sims, that ornament of American Medicine, and the father, Dr. John A. Wyeth, ex-president of the American Medical Association, now President of the New York Academy of Medicine. Truly the young publisher has a great heritage in his ancestors. That he will publish many a worthy volume, we feel certain; but it will be a long time before he has a chance to better his first publication. Both father and son—author and publisher—are to be congratulated on the happy combination of circumstances which links them together in a new and pleasant relationship. The typography and illustrations of the new book are very creditable; the work is copiously illustrated, both with half-tone plates and plates in color. Nor have older methods of illustration been neglected. Whatever may be said of the beauty of the best half-tones which come from our modern presses, the camera can never entirely replace the burin of the engraver for teaching purposes.

Dr. Wyeth has succeeded in compressing into a volume of

less than 800 pages all the essentials of modern surgery and a great many of its refinements. Under the head of anæsthetics, Gwathmey's warm vapor apparatus receives mention; also Brown's mechanism for combined heated nitrous oxide and oxygen. Reference is also made to the enlarged scope of local infiltration anæsthesia as practiced by the author and Dr. Bodine at the New York Polyclinic. In the chapter on arteries, Matas endoaneurismorrhaphy is fully described. The author also refers to his own case of aneurism of the ascending aorta, in which he employed simultaneous ligation of the right carotid and subclavian arteries with success, the patient surviving for a year—dying after that interval of another disease. As an example of the possibilities of cocaine, the author states that he has tied the third division of the subclavian by the aid of this anæsthetic. The chapters on fractures and dislocations, while not exhaustive of course, are sufficient, and clearly illustrated. In the chapter on the surgery of the head, modern methods of attack on the cranial contents are fully described and well illustrated; and Cushing's operation for decompression receives particular mention. Under the head of trigeminal neuralgia, the recent procedure of Levy and Baudoin (in which alcohol injections into the affected nerves are used), are fully described. The chapter on abdominal surgery contains a concise description of all the modern methods, as elaborated by Moynihan, the Mayos and others. The half-tone plates in this chapter will be exceedingly useful to the operator who is new to these methods. The modern surgery of the prostate gland—particularly Young's operation—is carefully described. The chapter on the genito-urinary organs of the female contains an excellent description of plastic operations on the outlet, and an account of the methods of the late colleague of the author, Dr. Pryor, in attacking diseased appendages through the vaginal route, in which he was so successful. The chapters on neoplasms and the surgical infections, while relatively brief, as might be expected in a work limited to less than 1000 pages, nevertheless contain the main facts. Dr. Wyeth is to be congratulated upon his ability to compress so much in so small a space. He has written an admirable text-book for the student, a compendium for the general practitioner, and a volume which his colleagues and co-workers in surgery will often consult with profit.

ALGERNON THOMAS BRISTOW.